implements, sprinkler set etc. In addition, frontline and general demonstrations are organised on farmer's fields to transfer the production technology.

Expansion of Chandigarh Railway Station

2628. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chandigarh Railway Station is a very important station being the Capital of the two States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a very large area of Railway land is lying vacant outside the station for expansion of a big Terminal easily; and

(c) if so, whether any survey has been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is adequate land available for expansion of the facilities at the Station, as and when such an expansion becomes necessary to cope with an increase in volume of traffic and number of trains being run, and subject to availability of funds.

(c) No, Sir.

Incentives to Farmers for shifting to Food Crops

2629. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering steps to provide incentives to the farmers to shift to food crops particularly the coarse foodgrains crops;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof;

(c) whether this should not be dovetailed with the imperatives of food security; and

(d) the details of the food security status projections for 2000 AD?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) The strategy and Programme of the Government are aimed for balanced growth of food and non foodgrain crops to meet the requirement of various commodities. As part of the effort to ensure supply of adequate quantity of foodgrains, Government of India is providing incentives for increasing production and productivity of coarse cereals through crop oriented schemes namely Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals based cropping system areas.

(d) The foodgrain production in the country during 1990-91 to 1994-95 has shown a compund rate of growth of about 2.46% per annum. This rate of growth in production of foodgrain is likely to be sustained in Ninth Five Year Plan as the rate of growth of food production is likely to be higher than the rate of growth of population which is around 2% per annum. The food security status is likely to remain comfortable by the year 2000 AD.

Railway booking as Allied Service in Delhi Offices

2630. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Offices and Department in Delhi where railway booking is functioning as an allied service;

(b) the policy and criteria for posting staff and officers at such places;

(c) the policy and criteria for transfer of such staff and officers;

(d) whether Government are aware that posting at one place for a long period results into malpractices; and

(e) the steps being taken to avoid long stay of officers and staff at one place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) At present, 15 Computerised Reservation Offices are functioning in Delhi area at the following places:—

(1) IRCA Building Chelmsford Road, New Delhi
(2) Old Delhi Railway Station
(3) Sarojini Nagar
(4) Ghaziabad
(5) Kirti Nagar
(6) Nizamuddin
(7) Karkardooma
(8) New Azad Pur
(9) Noida
(10) Parliament House
(11) Delhi University (Manual)
(12) Supreme Court
(13) Okhla
(14) Indira Gandhi International Airport
(15) Delhi Shahdara.

(b) to (e) The eligible staff from the group 'C' cetegory are deployed against the posts as per requirements. These staff work under the administrative control of officers in the main passenger reservation complex at New Delhi. Periodical transfers, shifting and rotational roasters are being used to avoid long stay of staff.

Drop-out rate in schools

2631. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) details of the drop-rate in rural and urban areas for boys and girls in different States during 1995-96;

(b) how this compares with 1990—92 and 1993-94;

(c) what are the reasons for high drop-out so far as girl students are concerned; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) A statement giving details of State-wise drop-out rates of boys and girls in primary classes for 1990-91 and 1993-94 is attached as statement *(See* below) Dis-aggregated drop-out data for rural and urban areas is not available.

(c) the reasons for high drop-out in case of girl students from primary classes relate to several socio-economic and cultural factors. These include in difference of parents towards education of girls; involvement of girls in domestic chores; care of siblinge; agriculture and allied activities; prevalence of child marriage; distance from schools; non-availability of sufficient women teachers; lack of amenities such as saparate toilets for girls, etc.

(d) The measures taken by Central and State Govenments to improve the situation include micro-planning and community mobilisation; greater involvement of Panchayat Raj Institutions; setting up of Village Education Committees; improvement of school infrastructure through Operation Blackboard Scheme; incentives for girls and SC/ST such as free text books, uniforms and attandence scholarships, establishing and strengthening of teacher education institutions, introduction of Minimum Levels of Learning (MLLs) and implementation of the Mid-day Meals Programme.